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Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

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I. Introduction

1. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hereby presents its third report within the framework of the third round of the Universal Periodic Review, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251 and Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions 5/1, 16/21 and 17/119. The report surveys progress achieved in protecting and promoting human rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the period from July 2013 to July 2018 pursuant to the country's obligations and the recommendations received during the second round of the Universal Periodic Review, which have met with full or partial endorsement.

2. "Saudi Vision 2030", adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 308 (25 April 2016) is a blueprint for general policies, programmes and initiatives, employing the Kingdom's potential and God-given resources within a framework of three themes: a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious nation. Each theme incorporates a number of goals linked directly or indirectly to human rights and addresses, explicitly or implicitly, a number of these rights, principally the right to security, health and work, the rights of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, the right to development and participation in political and public life and the right to form and support associations, as well as a number of other social and political rights. Numerous programmes and executive measures have been launched on the basis of the Kingdom's ambitious vision.

3. To realise Saudi Vision 2030, a list of 12 programmes have been adopted. These are: the pilgrimage programme, national transformation programme, public investment fund programme, national industrial development and logistics programme, financial sector development programme, lifestyle quality programme, national companies promotion programme, strategic partnerships programme, housing programme, privatization programme, Saudi character building programme and fiscal balance program. For further information, please visit the Saudi Vision 2030 website: http://vision2030.gov.sa/en.

II. Methodology followed in preparing the report[1]

4. The report preparation process consisted of the following stages:

(a) Previous recommendation follow-up stage: Since adoption of the Kingdom's report on the recommendations received during the second round of the Universal Periodic Review at the 25th session of the HRC (19 March 2014), work has been underway on following up those recommendations which received the full or partial endorsement of the Saudi Human Rights Commission. Supreme Order no. 28277 (21 March 2016) was issued, stressing that all stakeholders are required to cooperate fully with the Human Rights Commission to ensure that recommendations endorsed by the Kingdom are implemented and that appropriate measures are taken to address any obstacles to implementation. A standing committee was established by Supreme Order no. 13084 (18 January 2015), with responsibility for preparing reports on the human rights conventions to which the Kingdom is a party and reports required under the Universal Periodic Review. The committee is also responsible for monitoring recommendations emanating from regional and international treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review. A number of government bodies are represented on the committee, which works in partnership with civil society institutions.

(b) Preparation stage: At this stage, the focus was on providing the members of the standing committee and participating civil society organizations with the necessary report-writing knowledge and skills through training courses and workshops. To this end, the Kingdom availed itself of the memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation concluded with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2012 to organize a number of training courses and workshops implemented by OHCHR-approved trainers in order to raise national capacities and ensure maximum compliance with the Universal Periodic Review process.

(c) Information gathering stage: At this stage, information required for the report was collected on the basis of the principles of objectivity, transparency and authenticity.

Meetings were held with representatives of civil society institutions to obtain information and review the information gathered.

(d) Drafting stage: At this stage, information relevant to the report was arranged by topic in line with certain criteria, emphasising general information in order to provide an understanding of the overall situation and focusing on achievements and accomplishments with regard to the recommendations endorsed by the Kingdom during the second round of the Universal Periodic Review. Technical terms were used to facilitate the reading and discussion of the report. This stage resulted in the preparation of a draft report.

(e) National review and consultation stage: At this stage, representatives of civil society organizations were invited to review and discuss the draft and a number of amendments were made. The present document represents the end product of the process.

III. General framework for the protection and promotion of human rights[2]

(a) The legal framework

5. In addition to existing human rights-related laws and legal provisions, numerous laws, regulations, orders, decisions etc. were issued during the period covered by the report and many amendments made to human rights-related laws and regulations. There follows a brief review of the most significant legal provisions:

Laws and regulations

Protection against Abuse Act[3]

6. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 52 (21 September 2013), the Act represents a key national framework for addressing all forms of abuse faced by a number of groups in society. The Act was designed to ensure protection from all types of abuse, afford help and treatment, provide shelter and social, psychological and health care, ensure that appropriate statutory measures are taken to bring to account and punish perpetrators and spread awareness of the social effects of abuse. The implementing regulations, issued by Decision of the Minister of Labour and Social Development no. 43047 (9 March 2014), contain a number of mechanisms for implementing the provisions of the Act.

Unemployment Insurance Act

7. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 18 (13 January 2014), the Act guarantees compensation to unemployed workers in accordance with specific rules until they are able to return to work.

Psychological Health Care Act[4]

8. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 56 (17 July 2014) the Act seeks, under article 2, to regulate and improve psychological care for the mentally ill, secure their rights, safeguard their dignity and protect their families and society.

Child Protection Act[5]

9. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 14 (25 November 2014), the Act protects persons under the age of 18 from abuse and neglect. Article 2 affirms the provisions of Islamic sharia law, statutory law and the international conventions to which the Kingdom is a party which safeguard the rights of the child and provide protection from all forms of abuse and neglect. It stresses the need to educate and spread awareness of the rights of the child, particularly with regard to protection from abuse and neglect. The implementing regulations, issued by Decision of the Minister of Labour and Social Development no. 56386 (5 April 2015), contain detailed provisions concerning implementation of the Act.

Associations and Non-governmental Organizations Act[6]

10. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 8 (1 December 2015), the Act seeks to regulate, develop and protect non-governmental activity, contribute to national growth, promote citizen participation in community management and development, foster the culture of voluntary work among members of society and achieve social solidarity. The Act charges the Minister of Labour and Social Development with licensing and promoting the development of associations and organizations, providing them with government support and fostering the culture of voluntary work in society. To simplify procedures, article 8 states that an application to establish an association shall be made by not less than ten Saudi natural or corporate persons (previously the minimum number was 20). The Minister of Labour and Social Development shall respond to an application within 60 days from the date of completing the application procedures. Failure to respond within this period shall be tantamount to approval.

Crimes of Terrorism and Terrorism Financing Act[7]

11. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 21 (1 November 2017), the Act defines the crime of terrorism and related procedural aspects, including arrest, detention, provisional release, appointment of legal counsel and the courts which are competent to hear terrorism cases. The Act defines crimes and punishments.

Audio-Visual Media Act[8]

12. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 33 (13 December 2017) the Act, in article 5, prohibits actions designed to provoke strife, division and hatred among citizens, incite violence, threaten the peace of society and disrespect others.

Prevention of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and the Rights and Duties of Sufferers Act

13. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 41 (3 January 2018) the Act, in articles 2 and 3, classifies HIV/AIDS as a contagious disease and seeks to protect the rights of those living with the disease, ensuring that they receive proper care and rehabilitation and are able to continue to exercise their rights to education and work. The Act requires health authorities to provide sufferers with health care, counselling, and psychological support, while respecting their rights.

Anti-Harassment Act

14. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 97 (31 May 2018), the Act is designed to prevent and combat the crime of harassment, punish offenders and protect victims. It seeks to maintain the privacy, dignity and personal freedom of the individual guaranteed by sharia and statutory law.

Juveniles Act[9]

15. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 113 (31 July 2018), the Act contains the provisions and measures necessary for dealing with juvenile delinquents, including stop and search, arrest, investigation and prosecution, in a manner appropriate to their age; it also provides for behavioural assessment. The Act seeks to safeguard the rights of juveniles in the criminal justice system.

Royal orders, supreme orders and decisions of the Council of Ministers

Supreme Order no. 35362 (30 July 2013)

16. The Order approves the guidelines for the Comprehensive Access Programme, on adapting the urban environment to enable persons with disabilities to integrate in society and live an independent life.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 82 (6 January 2014)

17. The Decision approves the Housing Subsidy Act which, together with its implementing regulations, is designed to promote the right to housing.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 418 (25 August 2014)

18. The Decision provides for the formation of the Saudi Health Council, the body responsible for regulating hospitals run by ministries and government bodies and ensuring that these bodies work in coordination to deliver health care, paramedical and medical evacuation services, secure the supply of medicines and medical supplies, develop the health environment and study and evaluate the standard of health service provision.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 308 (25 April 2016)

19. The Decision approves Saudi Vision 2030 and requires the Council of Economic and Development Affairs to formulate and monitor the mechanisms and procedures to implement this vision. It further requires ministries and other government bodies — each in its own sphere of competence — to take the necessary measures for implementation.

Supreme Order no. 27808 (15 March 2017)[10]

20. The Order requires a study to be conducted into domestic violence and the best ways of dealing with issues of guardianship and custody, to include review of the relevant legislation with a view to proposing amendments thereto and preparation of a manual on general domestic violence issues and custody. The Order also requires programmes to be held for judges across the country, in partnership with stakeholders.

Supreme Order no. 33322 (18 April 2017)[11]

21. The Order allows women to access all government services and conclude their business without being required to obtain the approval of another person. It further supports the launch by the Human Rights Commission of educational programmes on the international conventions to which the Kingdom has acceded, as part of a comprehensive women's rights awareness plan.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 289 (11 April 2016)

22. The Decision approves a new charter for the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, under which its powers are defined and measures put in place to ensure that it operates in coordination with law enforcement agencies.

Royal Order no. 240 (17 June 2017)[12]

23. The Order renames the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution, which becomes the Public Prosecution Service, reporting directly to the King and accorded complete independence in the performance of its duties.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 679 (7 August 2017)

24. The Decision approves the charter of the Alimony Fund, designed to ensure that alimony is paid on time. Under the law, a woman is entitled to alimony on the basis of a judicial order but rulings have only been enforced in cases of impoverishment. Under article 4 of the Decision, a divorced women whose claim is still before the court can receive alimony from the Fund on a temporary basis until a ruling is issued.

Supreme Order no. 905 (26 September 2017)[13]

25. The order authorises application of the Traffic Act and its implementing regulations, providing for driving licences to be issued to men and women on a basis of equality.

Principal acts amended

Criminal Procedure Act[14]

26. The updated Criminal Procedure Act, promulgated pursuant to Royal Decree no. 2 (25 November 2013), requires an accused person to be informed of his rights (article 4). The Act promotes the principle of presumption of innocence. Article 34 requires law enforcement officers to take the statement of an arrested person immediately. If there is sufficient evidence against him, the suspect is sent with the recording clerk to the investigator, who must question him within 24 hours then order his release, unless there is sufficient evidence to charge him with a serious offence or it is in the interests of the investigation to detain him. The Act explicitly states that an accused has the right to call upon defence counsel during the investigation and trial stages. If he lacks the financial ability to engage an attorney, the accused may ask the court to appoint one for him, at State expense. The Act and its implementing regulations clarify this matter. The Act allows a judge to postpone or suspend implementation of sentence, if the convict's character, past behaviour, age, personal circumstances, circumstances surrounding the crime or other factors persuade him to do so. The implementing regulations, issued pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 142 (21 Rabi I, 1436 AH), contain details.

Labour Law[15]

27. Royal Decree no. 46 (25 March 2015) approved the amendment of several articles of the Labour Law, promulgated pursuant to Royal Decree no. 51 (27 September 2005). Amendments include the following: an employer must display work regulations in a prominent place in the establishment or inform those subject to them of these regulations by other means (article 13); an employer may not transfer a worker from his original place of work to another place, requiring a change of residence (article 58); and a worker shall not work more than five consecutive hours without a break for rest, prayer and meals of not less than half an hour each time, during working hours (article 101).

Regional and international human rights instruments[16]

28. Two human rights instruments — the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights — are currently being studied by a high-level governmental committee with a view to accession. Under article 5(4) of its charter, the Human Rights Commission may express an opinion on international human rights instruments and accession thereto. The Kingdom became a party to the International Labour Organization Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (no. 138) pursuant to Royal Decree no. 37 (28 April 2013).

National plans and policies designed to protect and promote human rights[17]

29. Supreme Order no. 13084 (18 January 2015) approved the formulation of a national human rights strategy for the Kingdom, embracing all the basic principles designed to protect and promote human rights and consistent with the principles of Islamic sharia law, the Basic Law of Governance and other laws, as well as the regional and international human rights conventions to which the Kingdom has become a party. Several regional and international declarations, programs and action platforms were consulted with regard to the Kingdom's obligations. A committee consisting of governmental and non-governmental bodies is currently engaged in drafting the strategy. The strategy contains six themes: the legal framework, institutional capacities, civil society, business sector, culture of human rights and regional and international cooperation. These will generate a set of goals, programmes and initiatives addressing all human rights.

30. The national action plan to combat crimes of trafficking in persons (2017–2020) is one of the measures designed to prevent and protect against human trafficking.

31. Adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 227 (23 January 2018), the national water strategy is designed to ensure continued access to sufficient quantities of safe water under normal and emergency conditions, improve demand management for all uses,

provide high quality water and waste water services at affordable prices, safeguard water resources and improve water use, while protecting the local environment.

32. Adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 439 (1 May 2018), the food security strategy and implementation plan seek to achieve five strategic goals: development of a system of sustainable local food production with competitive advantage, achieving diversity and stability of external sources of food, ensuring access to safe food within the Kingdom, encouraging healthy and balanced nutritional habits and building capacities to address food security risk.

33. Adopted pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 454 (8 May 2018), the national strategy for the environment is designed to help improve quality of life, foster compliance with environmental regulations, achieve the maximum degree of adaptation to climate change, support research to develop environmentally friendly technologies, adopt the highest professional and moral standards in the management and operation of the environmental and meteorological sectors, comply with international treaties and encourage civil society organizations to participate in environmental protection.

(b) The institutional framework

34. In the period covered by the report, a number of institutional frameworks concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights were created. These are responsible for implementing and monitoring relevant laws and regulations and the conventions to which the Kingdom is a party and promoting judicial and administrative redress. The most important of these institutions are as follows:

Education Evaluation Commission[18]

35. Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 94 (27 November 2016) approved the regulatory arrangements for the Education Evaluation Commission, a body with independent corporate personality, enjoying administrative and financial independence. The Commission's basic function is to conduct educational evaluation in order to raise the quality and efficiency of education and support national economic development by improving quality of output.

Justice Training Centre[19]

36. The Justice Training Centre was established pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 162 (24 February 2014) within the organizational structure of the Ministry of Justice, with the aim of raising the efficiency and level of qualification of judges and court staff.

Saudi Bar Association[20]

37. The charter of the Saudi Bar Association regulation, adopted pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 317 (27 April 2015), contains a number of provisions designed to boost the role of lawyers in promoting and protecting human rights.

King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre[21]

38. Established on 13 May 2015, the King Salman Centre is dedicated to international humanitarian aid and relief. The Centre operates a range of programmes designed in accordance with the most up-to-date global models to extend the vital aid and relief programmes the Kingdom delivers, helping to relieve the suffering of societies experiencing humanitarian crises and enabling them to lead a decent life. The Centre seeks to consolidate the Kingdom's relief operations overseas and coordinate the activity of governmental and non-governmental relief agencies.

39. Since its establishment, the Centre has been able to implement 439 projects, in collaboration with 124 international partner organizations and local institutions covering 12 humanitarian sectors in 40 countries around the world.

General Authority for Awqaf

40. Established pursuant to Royal Decree no. 11 (8 December 2015), the Authority seeks to regulate religious endowments in such a way as to promote their role in economic and social development and social solidarity, thus reflecting positively on the human rights situation.

General Authority for Culture[22]

41. Established pursuant to Royal Decree no. 133 (7 May 2016) and with its charter issued pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 120 (14 November 2017), the Authority is responsible for promoting the cultures of different groups in society.

General Authority for Entertainment

42. Established pursuant to Royal Decree no. 133 (7 May 2016), the Authority is responsible for entertainment-related activity, thereby helping to promote a number of human rights.

General Sports Authority

43. Paragraph (9) of Royal Decree no. 133 (7 May 2016) changed the name of the General Presidency of Youth Welfare to "General Sports Authority". The Authority is concerned with sport-related matters.

Family Affairs Council[23]

44. The Council was established by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 443 (25 July 2016) and tasked with responsibility for family affairs. Article 6 of its charter requires a number of technical committees to be formed, including a committee for childhood, committee for the elderly and committee for women. Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 14 (26 September 2017) added a new subparagraph to article 3(1) of the charter of the Family Affairs Council, on the formation of the Council, adding two members specialising in geriatrics. Among the committees formed by the Council is a family protection committee.

Authority for the welfare of persons with disabilities[24]

45. Under its charter, issued pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 266 (13 February 2018), the Authority delivers care for persons with disabilities and ensures they obtain their disability-related rights. It seeks to improve the services provided by government agencies to the disabled, help them access essential care and rehabilitation, raise the level of prevention, define the role of each agency concerned with the welfare of persons with disabilities and, to this end, cooperate and coordinate with stakeholders to ensure that the necessary measures are taken.

Saudi Intellectual Property Authority

46. Adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 496 (29 May 2018), the Authority's charter gives it responsibility for intellectual property activity in the Kingdom.

IV. Promoting and protecting human rights on the ground

(a) The judiciary[25]

47. The period covered by the report saw many positive developments, reflecting State interest in the judiciary. These include the promulgation and updating of several pieces of legislation (Criminal Procedure Act, Sharia Court Procedure Act, Board of Grievance Procedure Act); enhanced independence of the Public Prosecution Service, according its work a judicial capacity; and establishment of a number of institutions (e.g. the Saudi Bar

Association), which have helped to develop the statutory and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights by enshrining judicial rights and guarantees.

48. Royal Order no. 20 (29 November 2014) commanded the formation of a committee to prepare a draft code of judicial rulings on matters of Sharia law relevant to the judiciary, arranged by topic under the headings of Islamic jurisprudence.

49. The start made on establishing specialised courts represents a positive development in respect of the consolidation of judicial bodies. It has been announced that three commercial courts are to be opened, in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam, as well as specialized commercial chambers and appeal chambers within the general court system in several cities.

50. The Justice Training Centre has been created within the organizational structure of the Ministry of Justice with the aim of raising the efficiency and level of qualification of judges and court staff. Since its creation, the Centre has organized numerous training programmes for judges and lawyers, including courses on the application of the human rights conventions to which the Kingdom has become a party. A total of 880 judges and lawyers have received training in human rights from the Centre since its creation in 2016.

51. Judicial principles are the concern of the Supreme Court, established under the Judiciary Act promulgated by Royal Decree no. 78 (1 October 2007). Such principles are designed to improve the consistency of judicial judgement and support codification. In 2017, a tome was published containing 2,323 judicial principles and rulings in all areas relevant the judiciary, collected over the years from 1391 AH to 1437 AH (1971 CE to 2016 CE).

52. As part of the national transformation programme initiatives, the Ministry of Justice has organized many culture of justice exhibitions under the slogan, "Knowledge and enrichment" in cities across the Kingdom. Exhibitions feature four platforms, including: "e-services", providing information on key services of the Ministry; "laws", covering the laws pertaining to women, children and the family; and "knowledge", which seeks to increase awareness and provide information on personal status issues.

53. In collaboration with civil society organizations, including the Mawadda Association for Divorce Reduction, the Ministry of Justice offers free legal advice. Women's offices have been opened in courts, staffed by qualified female legal advisors, providing free rights-related services.

54. Regarding international cooperation and exchange of expertise, the Ministry of Justice is currently studying 30 unratified conventions and memoranda of understanding, plus 12 previously ratified conventions, memoranda of understanding and executive programmes, promoting cooperation with certain States in the fields of legal services, exchange of expertise, cooperation in the provision of legal aid and launch of a number of training programmes.

(b) Criminal justice[26]

55. A number of criminal justice measures have been taken, including promulgation of Royal Order no. 20 (29 November 2014), concerning the preparation of a draft code of judicial rulings (see paragraph 48, above).

56. The Public Prosecution Service has begun installing closed circuit television cameras in interview rooms to ensure that due process is observed when questioning suspects. Furthermore, the Public Prosecution Service has issued a circular stating that case documents must show that suspects have been informed of their rights by members of the Service and that indictments contain reference to the concepts of the human rights conventions to which the Kingdom has become a party. The General Directorate of Prisons has created a human rights department and the offices set up inside prisons for oversight bodies to receive complaints from prisoners and detainees have been given an enhanced role.

57. The laws of the Kingdom affirm the principle of public trial. Thus article 154 of the Criminal Procedure Act stipulates: "Court hearings shall be public. The court may, in exceptional circumstance, hear the case or part thereof in camera or may prohibit certain groups from attending the hearings for reasons of security or maintenance of public morality or if it is deemed necessary for determining the truth." Article 181 (1) states: "The verdict, after being signed by the judge(s) who delivered it, shall be read in open court." The Criminal Procedure Act affirms the right of an accused to engage an attorney and to ask the court to appoint an attorney for him, if he lacks the financial ability (see paragraph 26).

58. The laws of the Kingdom contain provision for victims of human rights abuses to receive compensation. This is one of the Kingdom's principles of justice. The Criminal Procedure Act guarantees the victim, his lawyer or heirs the right to bring a criminal action and allows the victim of the crime to demand a private right of action during the investigation stage. The Act states that those who have suffered damage as a result of a crime may claim a private right of action during the investigation stage of the case. The Act further states that those who have suffered damage as a result of a crime may claim a private right of action during the trial stage. Furthermore, article 215 of the Criminal Procedure Act states that a person who has suffered damage as a result of false accusation or extension of a term of imprisonment or detention beyond the stipulated period has the right to claim compensation before the court which heard the original case.

59. As regards combatting torture and abuse, Royal Decree no. 43 (17 November 1958) and several other related laws, such as the Criminal Procedure Act, Protection from Abuse Act, Child Protection Act and the Convention against Torture (which became part of national law upon the accession of the Kingdom thereto), complement one another to build a strong statutory framework guaranteeing prevention and protection from crimes of torture and abuse and ensuring that victims receive redress in the form of rehabilitation, assistance, compensation etc.

60. A further achievement in abuse prevention has been the creation of a special centre at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to receive reports of domestic violence on one consolidated telephone number (1919), working around the clock. Furthermore, a committee of government bodies has been formed to prepare a reference manual on the investigation and documentation of crimes of torture and the provision of victim assistance, based on the *Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (the Istanbul Protocol).

61. The Juveniles Act clarifies the statutory measures to be taken when dealing with juveniles. Article 5 states that a juvenile can only be arrested in the presence of his parent/legal guardian unless caught red-handed, in which case the parent/legal guardian is to be notified immediately. Article 7 allows a juvenile to be detained for questioning only if the public prosecutor believes that interest so requires. In all cases, a juvenile may only be held in a Ministry of Labour and Social Development-run institution. Article 11 states that a juvenile may only be questioned in the presence of his parent/legal guardian, a social worker or specialist, or his lawyer. Article 12 requires the institution to prepare a social report on the juvenile and to keep the court regularly informed of his situation. Article 15 states that, if the crime committed by the juvenile is punishable by death, the sentence shall be reduced to a term of not more than 10 years detention in the institution.

62. An example of best practice in promoting criminal justice has been the creation of the "Window of communication" website (www.nafethah.gov.sa). This allows persons detained in security cases to study case information and provides them with ways of communicating digitally with their families and submitting petitions and complaints.

63. The death sentence is only handed down for the most serious crimes and under strict conditions. It requires a final verdict to be delivered by a competent court, after all trial proceedings before all levels of court have run their course. Cases are heard by 13 judges in all, beginning with the court of first instance, consisting of three judges. Even if it has not been appealed by any of the parties, the verdict of the court of first instance is then put before the court of appeal, where it is considered by a panel of five judges. The verdict must then be put before the Supreme Court for consideration by another five judges. If the

Supreme Court upholds the verdict, all stages of trial will have been completed, whereupon the public prosecutor shall supervise execution of sentence, ensuring proper execution and the absence of any impediment that may cause execution to be halted or postponed.

(c) Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism[27]

64. The Kingdom has taken every opportunity to affirm the incompatibility of terrorism, extremism and fanaticism with the principles and objectives of Islamic sharia and to declare terrorist acts to be criminal acts which must be punished and deterred. The security forces have successfully prevented numerous acts of terrorist violence and thwarted many heinous terrorist plans, while demonstrating due regard for human rights. The alertness of citizens and residents who have played their part in the fight against terrorism by reporting suspicious behaviour is applauded.

65. The King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue, which plays an important role in spreading moderation and promoting tolerance and coexistence, has launched numerous projects designed to achieve its goals. These include the Tibyan Project on combating extremism, which seeks to spread the values of moderation, tolerance and repudiation of all forms of extremism.

66. The Ideological War Centre was established with a mandate to address the roots of extremism and terrorism and secure a true understanding of Islam. The Centre's terrorism prevention and deradicalization programmes have enabled young people around the world to fortify themselves against the blandishments of terrorism. The goals of the Centre include: formulating a deep-rooted understanding of the problem of extremism by studying its underlying causes, understanding the tools and methods used by extremist groups, identifying the social groups targeted by terrorist groups and cooperating effectively with national and global organizations.

67. At regional and international levels, the Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology ("Itidal"), inaugurated on 21 May 2017 by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, is one component of the institutional framework for fighting terrorism. Working in collaboration with related international organizations, the Centre monitors and analyses extremist ideology in order to confront it and protect against it.

(d) Promoting integrity and fighting corruption[28]

68. Under Royal Order no. 38 (4 November 2017) a higher committee to fight corruption was formed, chaired by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and with a membership consisting of the Chairman of the Control and Investigation Board, Chairman of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, President of the General Auditing Bureau, the public prosecutor and head of the Presidency of State Security. It represents a radical reform, designed to eradicate corruption and protect public funds, in the process achieving substantial economic benefits in the form of restoration to the treasury of unlawfully acquired public funds, promotion of investor confidence and encouragement of investment in the Saudi market.

69. The National Centre for Performance Measurement ("Adaa") was established by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 3 (6 Muharram 1437 AH). The Centre measures the performance indicators of public bodies, applying standard models, methods and tools to boost efficiency and effectiveness. It publishes periodic reports on the achievement of the strategic goals of public bodies, the status of performance indicators and the progress of initiatives to realise Saudi Vision 2030. The Centre also measures customer satisfaction with the delivery of public services.

(e) Combating human trafficking[29]

70. The promulgation of the Trafficking in Persons Act, accession to the conventions and protocols on combating human trafficking, formation of an anti-trafficking committee bringing together representatives of relevant government bodies and creation of a department in the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to combat crimes of trafficking in persons have all contributed to the development of a statutory and institutional framework that guarantees protection from crimes of trafficking in persons for everyone, without discrimination, the provision of medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims, payment of compensation for damages and other forms of redress. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development has allocated a single consolidated telephone number (19911) to take complaints in eight languages, including complaints relating to trafficking in persons.

71. Work is currently underway on implementing the National Plan to Combat Crimes of Trafficking in Persons (2017–2020) and a number of training activities and programmes, designed to raise the level of national anti-trafficking capacities, have been organized for judges, members of the Public Prosecution Service, the police and other law enforcement officers, psychologists, social workers and employees and staff of civil society organizations. The list of achievements also includes working in cooperation with regional and international States and organizations to conclude bilateral agreements on employment and activities and events to combat transnational organized crime, including crimes of human trafficking.

72. Royal Decree no. 109 (18 July 2017) approved a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation between the Kingdom, represented by the Human Rights Commission, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The memorandum is designed to promote cooperation in preventing and combating human trafficking, provide victims with care, protection and shelter and develop programmes and activities to build national capacities.

(f) Civil society[30]

73. The Civil Associations and Organizations Act represents a well-developed statutory framework, featuring a number of social and development goals. This and related acts guarantee the diversity and independence of civil society organizations. As a result of the support they receive, the number of non-governmental associations and organizations in the Kingdom rose to 1,121 by the end of March 2018. Most of these have some connection to human rights or particular aspects thereof. In 2017, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development provided more than 700 million riyals in subsidies. Two boards have been formed, one for associations and the other for NGOs and permission has been given to set up family funds. The period for deciding whether or not to approve an application for a licence has been set at 60 days. Civil society organizations work in partnership with the relevant bodies to prepare and monitor implementation of bills and draft regulations and assist with the publication of reports on human rights.

(g) Freedom of opinion and expression[31]

74. The laws of the Kingdom guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, on which there are no restrictions save those stipulated by law and the need to respect the rights and reputation of others, protect national security and safeguard public order, public health and public decency. Furthermore, freedom of opinion and expression does not include making propaganda for war, promoting national, racial or religious hatred or inciting discrimination, aggression or violence. The publication of numerous print and online newspapers, the creation of two independent authorities — one for radio and television and the other for the audio-visual media — the appearance of a host of television channels and radio stations operating in many languages and the ease of use of social media all demonstrate an ever-widening space for expression and a growing number of ways of exercising this right. Enjoying independence in its choice of topics and pursuits, the King

Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue provides a suitable environment for discussing many of the problems and issues that citizens have. This represents a real development.

(h) Serving and caring for the Two Holy Mosques[32]

75. The Kingdom devotes considerable attention to the Two Holy Mosques, mobilising all the resources necessary to serve them and the pilgrims. The Kingdom is currently witnessing the largest expansion of the Two Holy Mosques in the history of Islam, at a cost of more than 70 billion riyals (the equivalent of 18 billion US dollars). The expansion will double capacity and enable pilgrims (of whom there were some 2.5 in 2017) from all over the world to perform their rites and observances with ease and confidence. Furthermore, major infrastructure projects have been completed in Makkah, Madinah and the holy sites, supporting a large network of multi-service facilities. In addition to the expansion of the Two Holy Mosques, projects include expanded pilgrim accommodation in central areas of Makkah and Madinah, launch of the "Mashair Railway" linking the holy sites, construction of the Jamarat Bridge, completion of the airport and pilgrim terminal expansions and improved transport, health and cleansing services, as well as other essential logistic services for pilgrims.

76. Under article 24 of the Basic Law of Governance, the Kingdom is responsible for maintaining and servicing the Two Holy Mosques and providing security and care for pilgrims to enable them to perform the rites and observances of the major pilgrimage (*hajj*), minor pilgrimage (*umrah*) and visit to the Prophet's Mosque (*ziyarah*) with ease and confidence. Accordingly, the Kingdom spares no effort to enable Muslims from around the world to perform the pilgrimage rites without discrimination, regardless of political or ideological considerations. It is worth noting that pilgrimage visas are issued by 96 embassies and 18 consulates and that pilgrimage missions have been opened in countries with which the Kingdom has no diplomatic relations. In addition, the Kingdom has taken measures to enable Muslims, whose governments place bureaucratic obstacles in the way of groups coming to the Kingdom, to perform the pilgrimage.

(i) Education and training[33]

77. The importance the Kingdom attaches to education has resulted in a number of rapid developments and reforms, focusing on education for all, equality of opportunity, free education, equality in education, curriculum development, teacher performance, school administration, school buildings and equipment, tools and methods of measurement and evaluation, educational guidance and counselling, visually, aurally and intellectually impaired students, autistic students and compulsory schooling for students with disabilities.

78. Qualitative and quantitative indicators reflect this ongoing development. In 2017, the net enrolment rate in primary education was 98 per cent. There were 38,368 schools serving 6,230,108 male and female pupils, representing a fourfold increase in numbers since 1980; they were taught by 537,147 male and female teachers. There were 28 public universities and 29 private universities and colleges with 1,485,915 male and female students. Some 152,172 students of both sexes were studying on scholarship at universities abroad. To upgrade their academic qualifications, special programmes have been launched for teachers of both sexes, offering scholarships to study at Saudi universities and at universities abroad. In 2017, a total of 912 were studying on scholarship either in-Kingdom or overseas. There were 1,798 literacy and adult education centres.

79. At 192 billion riyals (51 billion US dollars), the education and training sector[34] received the largest share of the 2018 State budget.

80. Pursuant to Ministerial Decision no. 89263 (11 July 2017), an initiative was launched by the Ministry of Education, enabling female students to take physical education classes. The initiative aims to construct and equip 500 gymnasiums each year to promote the health of female students.

81. The Lifelong Education Initiative ("Istadama") is a national development initiative that strives to eradicate illiteracy and enable individuals to take advantage of a range of educational and training opportunities. The initiative targets adults of both sexes in the 15–50 age group.

82. To ensure that the population in areas close to the Kingdom's southern border, who have suffered outrages committed by Iranian-backed Houthi militias, continue to have access to education, an educational support centre was established for schools in the southern border area, pursuant to Ministerial Decision no. 84328 (29 December 2015). The centre seeks to ensure continuity of teaching on the basis of a range of alternative options including, for example, the launch of a virtual school project, from which 44,000 students in 5 education departments have benefitted.

83. There are 45 technical and vocational colleges in the Kingdom, 15 of which offer bachelor's programmes. Some 22,417 male and female students graduated from these colleges in 2017. Some 12,924 male and female students benefitted from the vocational training programme for public school students in 2017. Approximately 24.2 per cent of all secondary school graduates were from technical and vocational training schools.

84. The Kingdom is engaged in humanitarian and relief work in the education sector at regional and international level, providing aid to support educational institutions and programmes and help for those affected by crises to continue their education. The Kingdom has provided a total of approximately 16 billion riyals in aid to support educational and cultural programmes.

(j) Health care[35]

85. Efforts continue to improve the delivery of health services on the basis of need, observing the principle of equality. There are several areas of focus, including maternal and child care, immunization programmes, health care for the disabled, the elderly and students, psychological health, health care for victims of accidents, emergencies and disasters, epidemic and infectious disease control, palliative care, organ transplant and other components of a comprehensive health care system and support infrastructure.

86. By 2016, the number of primary health care centres across all regions and governorates of the Kingdom had reached 2,450, delivering primary care, treatment for chronic diseases and maternal and child care. They have received more than 52 million visits.

87. The Kingdom has adopted a number of measures to promote reproductive health. As a result, average female life expectancy at birth rose to 76.3 and the rate of maternal mortality fell to 12 per 100,000 live births in 2017. Approximately 99.7 per cent of deliveries in 2017 were carried out under the supervision of trained medical staff, while, in 2016, some 98 per cent of pregnant women received professional health care. The Ministry of Health has launched a telephone helpline service (937) to receive patient complaints and provide medical consultancy 24 hours a day.

88. A raft of measures has been taken to raise the level of knowledge and competence of medical staff, with a focus on boosting training entry levels and the continuous development of courses and training methods. There were 81,434 male and female students enrolled in university medical and health colleges in 2017 and 21,658 studying overseas.

89. In 2017, the Saudi Patient Safety Centre was established. This is the national authority for all matters relating to patient safety and prevention of medical error. The Centre will seek to formulate a national strategy for patient safety in line with the health sector initiatives of the National Transformation Programme.

90. The experience and expertise in mass gathering medicine acquired over decades by the Kingdom as a result of delivering free health care to pilgrims provided the impetus for the foundation of the Global Centre for Mass Gathering Medicine. The Centre is a world authority in the field of mass gathering medicine.

(k) Employment[36]

91. The projects associated with Saudi Vision 2030, particularly NEOM, the Red Sea Project and various industrial schemes, will provide a wide range of job opportunities for large numbers of young Saudi men and women and unemployment rates are expected to decline gradually in the coming years. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has launched a number of initiatives designed to protect and promote the right to work, at the forefront of which are the Saudization of jobs programme ("Nitaqat") and supplemental programme "Nitaqat 2"; the social security programme, designed to cover and protect Saudi workers in the private sector against occupational hazards; and the Wage Protection System, designed to ensure regular payment of the wages agreed between worker and employee. The e-recruitment system ("Jadarah"), launched by the Ministry of Civil Service, is a national platform for public sector recruitment.

92. The allocation by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development of a single consolidated telephone number (19911), able to receive complaints from migrant workers in eight languages, represents an advance in the fair treatment of workers. Two other programmes representing an advance in the situation and treatment of migrant workers are the "Your employment advisor" programme, launched on the Labour Education website, and the Wage Protection System, ensuring that wages are paid on time through local banks.

93. A large number of measures designed to promote the rights of domestic service workers have been adopted. These include awareness-raising measures introduced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Human Rights Commission, National Society for Human Rights and other civil society organizations, measures adopted by the anti-trafficking committee to monitor the underlying causes of crimes of exploitation and measures taken by the Ministry of Labour and Human Rights Commission to ensure oversight. They also include improved mechanisms of overseas recruitment, oversight and control of recruiters and protection and support mechanisms.[37]

(l) Right to development[38]

94. The inclusive nature of Saudi Vision 2030 and the programmes and initiatives it has given rise to, all of which are consistent with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, represent a qualitative advance in national development. Furthermore, the Kingdom seeks to raise standards of living, combat poverty in all its forms and improve the delivery of services.

95. Particular achievements have been to ensure access of all children, both boys and girls, to education, reduce the mortality rate of children under the age of five, reduce rates of maternal mortality, reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and make progress in enabling women to participate in the job market.

96. An example of best practice in this area has been the introduction of the "Citizen's account" programme to help families address the expected direct and indirect effects of economic reform by redirecting government benefits to needy groups. Supreme Order no. 24535 (22 February 2017) approved the method of calculating the absolute poverty line and measuring the extent of poverty in the Kingdom.[39]

97. Adoption of the National Environmental Strategy pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 454 (8 May 2018), National Water Strategy pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 227 (23 January 2018) and National Food Security Strategy pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 439 (1 May 2018) are just some of the key measures adopted to achieve sustainable development.

(m) Women and children

Women's rights[40]

98. Most of the reforms and developments in the period covered by the report have been concerned with the promotion and protection of women's rights and the empowerment of

women. This is reflected in the quantity and quality of the measures taken and the results achieved. Many measures have been taken to empower women and promote gender equality within the framework of Islamic sharia law. These include the codification of judicial rulings on personal status matters, to which reference has already been made; the issuance of Supreme Order 33322 (18 April 2017), allowing women to access government services and conclude their business without being required to obtain the approval of another person (see paragraph 21, above); the appointment of 30 women to the Consultative Council, representing 20 per cent of members; granting women the right to vote and stand as candidates in municipal elections; the appointment of six women to the board of the Human Rights Commission; the appointment of Saudi women to senior positions, such as deputy minister, university principal and chair of the board of directors of several companies, including the Saudi Stock Exchange ("Tadawul"). As such, women now occupy decision-making positions in the public and private sectors.

99. A number of decisions have been taken to promote the judicial rights of women, including:[41]

- Introduction of the Alimony Fund (see paragraph 24, above);
- Issue of the marriage certificates in two copies, one for each spouse;
- Granting women a notary's licence, giving some of the powers of a notary public.

100. The creation of the Family Affairs Council, which has assigned responsibility for women's affairs to one committee and for family protection to another, is a significant development of the institutional framework to protect and promote the rights of women and the family. The Women's Affairs Committee has begun holding consultation workshops to review key laws relating to women. Additionally, the Council has approved a mechanism to formulate a national strategy for women.

101. The promulgation of the Protection against Abuse Act,[42] its implementing regulations and associated executive measures represents a guarantee to combat all forms of violence against women (see paragraph 6, above).

102. In 2016, the complaints centre became operational. The centre receives reports of domestic violence (see paragraph 60, above), on the strength of which the public prosecutor brings a criminal action under article 17 of the Criminal Procedure Act. If he believes it is in the public interest to do so, the public prosecutor investigates crimes involving a private right of action.

103. Regarding woman's right to freedom of movement, Supreme Order no. 905 (26 September 2017), authorising implementation of the Traffic Act and its implementing regulations, provides for driving licences to be issued to men and women on a basis of equality. To prepare for women driving cars in the Kingdom, the General Directorate of Traffic licenced five driving schools for women across the country, while advanced level driving schools have been opened in collaboration with the universities. Furthermore, 21 centres across the country have been established for female holders of foreign driving licenses who wish to exchange them for Saudi licenses. The Supreme Order has been implemented and women began driving cars on 24 June 2018.

104. A number of initiatives have been launched across the country to empower women economically. These include the "Qurrat" programme to support childcare services for working women; the "Wusul" programme to provide transport for working women; the "Self-employment support" program, which widens opportunities for women to increase their income using the skills they have; and the "Part-time working" and "Remote working" programmes to enable women to balance work and family life. There are also empowerment programmes in rural and remote areas designed to encourage women to enter the job market.

105. There has been a marked increase in the proportion of women working in the law, as court attorneys, public prosecutors and lawyers, on an equal footing with their male colleagues. Instructions have been issued by the Public Prosecution Service requiring female lawyers to be treated the same as their male counterparts, enabling them to study

their clients' case papers and be present when clients are questioned, in accordance with article 70 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

106. There has also been a marked rise in the proportion of women working in government service. Numerous programmes have been developed to expand female employment opportunities, in collaboration with the Human Resources Development Fund, General Organization for Social Insurance and the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation and in partnership with employers. A total of 2,033,668 women were in employment in the first quarter of 2018, compared with 2,008,233 in the first quarter of 2017. The number of Saudi women working in the private sector rose to 559,814 in the first quarter of 2018, representing approximately 32 per cent of Saudis employed in the private sector. The aim of Saudi Vision 2030 is to increase female participation in the job market from 22 per cent to 30 per cent by 2030, achieving a 3 per cent increase in non-oil GDP.

107. Article 34 of the standard model employment regulations sets out the general rules on equal pay for work of equal value, which include a prohibition on any form of discrimination between male and female workers in respect of equal pay for work of equal value. It is worth noting that the Kingdom is a party to the International Labour Organization Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111).

108. To the Kingdom's achievements in women's rights might be added the following: adoption of the Mother and Child Health Passport, designed to track the health of mother and child from pregnancy and birth until the age of five; application of the developed prenatal care model and distribution of literature thereon, amended in accordance with World Health Organization standards; and establishment of the National Observatory for Women, a centre of excellence attached to the King Abdullah Institute for Research and Consulting Studies at King Saud University. The Observatory tracks the participation of Saudi women in development programmes and their growing involvement in NGOs. Note that Saudi women make up 25 per cent of the founding members of the National Society for Human Rights and can be found on the board of banks, chambers of commerce and the Saudi Council of Engineers. Furthermore, there has been a rise in the number of charities founded and managed by women.

109. Saudi businesswomen feature prominently on global lists and rankings. They organize workshops across the Kingdom to promote women's rights and play a prominent role in the activities of the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue and the cultural dialogue sessions it organizes. They are also involved in implementing action programmes to improve the delivery of services for women, including family security mechanisms, productive family programmes, motherhood programmes, sport and leisure programmes and programmes to help families with limited income develop their own resources and transition from dependency to productivity.

110. Forced marriage is forbidden by Islamic sharia law, which holds that a marriage can only be concluded with the woman's consent. Sharia law prohibits a woman being prevented from marrying or forced into marriage against her will. A woman may not be prevented from marrying a man who meets the lawful conditions for marriage. The King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue conducted a study in partnership with stakeholders and civil society organizations, which showed that the number of women entering into forced or early marriage continues to decline. The study gave rise to a set of proposals, containing a number of measures and guidelines. Note that article 16 (3) of the implementing regulations for the Child Protection Act stipulates that, before the contract of marriage can be concluded, it must be ascertained that the marriage of a person under the age of 18, whether male or female, shall not cause harm and shall be in the best interests of that person.

111. The human rights awareness and instruction programmes organized by stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and Information and Human Rights Commission, are designed to correct the sort of false impressions that can lead to discrimination against women. The Council of Senior Scholars strives to correct these ideas by publishing statements in the media and on its social media accounts and by the appearance on television and radio of Council members. The Ministry of Islamic Affairs,

Dawah and Guidance plays an important role in this regard, through its preachers and imams.

Rights of the child[43]

112. The Kingdom has made remarkable progress in promoting respect for, protection of and fidelity to the rights of the child and has adopted a range of measures designed to improve the statutory and institutional frameworks. These include promulgation of the Child Protection Act and Juveniles Act, creation of the Family Affairs Council and formation of its children's affairs committee, and adoption of the Ministry of Health strategy on childhood and motherhood care for the next ten years, pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 320 (7 September 2009). The strategy provides for prevention and treatment at all stages of a child's growth and development, from the embryonic stage (focusing on genetic diseases) up to maturity. It also seeks to improve kindergarten provision to ensure that a child's intellectual and physical talents are identified and nurtured.

113. Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 152 (29 Rabi II 1437) gives responsibility for all matters relating to kindergartens for children in the age group 3 to 6 to the Ministry of Education. This includes the issue of the licences necessary to operate and manage kindergartens.

114. Growing NGO interest in childhood is a reflection of civil society's concern with children's rights. Achievements in this field include: the improved identification and nurturing of gifted children by the King Abdulaziz and His Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity and various Ministry of Health and civil society initiatives; improved delivery of education and health services to children with disabilities; increased interest by educational institutions in childhood behaviour; and a rise in the number of social upbringing programmes designed to implant sound values and behaviour in the minds of young children, protect them from the temptations of delinquency and combat extremist ideas.

115. A number of programmes and projects focusing on childhood have been launched,[44] including a project to extend kindergarten and nursery provision to cover the entire country and modernise early childhood programmes and activities.

116. As regards combating violence against children, the Ministry of Education has launched the "Rifq" programme to reduce violence in schools by various means, principally by making students, staff and parents/guardians aware of the causes and forms of violence, helping staff and parents/guardians to acquire the appropriate educational tools to address and reduce violence and providing guidance counsellors with the tools for the early detection and treatment of violent behaviour.

117. A single consolidated toll-free helpline (116111) has been introduced to support children under the age of 18 subjected to types of abuse, neglect or exploitation at home or at school, in the neighbourhood, in public places or government or private institutions and offer them on the spot, specialised counselling. The child support line is a member of Child Helpline International.

(n) Rights of persons with disabilities[45]

118. State concern with the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is evident from the many measures adopted in this area. These include the creation of an authority for the care of persons with disabilities; guaranteed access to disability-related rights; improved delivery of government services for the disabled; the issuing of a supreme order adopting guidelines for the Universal Access Programme, putting in place an urban environment to enable persons with disabilities lead an independent life and integrate in the community; the creation of the King Salman Centre for Disability Research, which is at the forefront of research into the causes, avoidance and treatment of disability; and the establishment of the King Salman Award for Disability Research, which has helped promote research into

disability care, improve the delivery of services for persons with disabilities and ensure commitment to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

119. In addition to the above, there has been an increase in the number of disability rehabilitation centres, with 38 Government-run and 187 private centres providing day care. Furthermore, disability rights associations are making their presence increasingly felt. Note that there are 7,816 disabled persons in comprehensive rehabilitation centres and 16,507 enrolled in private day care centres. Some 445,824 cases have benefited from the 5.2 billion riyals of financial assistance allocated for this purpose.

120. Concerted efforts have been made by the Kingdom to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas — economic, social and cultural — to enable them to become partners in development and a number of programmes and measures have been implemented in several fields. Thus, in the field of health, preventive, treatment and rehabilitation services are provided, including genetic counselling, and a range of tests are conducted to ensure early detection of disease; infants most at risk of disability are registered at birth and monitored and the health authorities are notified accordingly. Courses for health workers and accident responders are held to help improve their performance in assisting and treating the injured. Some 22 support offices have been opened in health facilities to provide logistic services for persons with disabilities and make these facilities disability-friendly.

121. In education, the Ministry of Education partially integrates some students with disabilities, placing them in special classrooms attached to its schools, and wholly integrates others by placing them in the same classrooms as their non-disabled peers. Educational support and rehabilitation is provided to ensure that they keep up with their peers in all classes. Assistive devices, such as hearing aids, vision aids and wheelchairs, are provided free of charge. Educational materials are provided for the blind, including textbooks printed in Braille and audiobooks; the textbooks approved for use in public education are adapted for use by the deaf. Sign language is used to communicate with deaf students.[46]

122. A special education initiative, involving development of a national strategy document for the teaching of persons with disabilities, was launched by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Health, Education Evaluation Commission, a number of charities and King Salman Centre for Disability Research.

123. The Prince Sultan Centre for Special Education Support Services is an integrated centre that seeks to provide a first-class service for children suffering from learning difficulties that prevent them from enrolling in ordinary or special needs schools. The Centre carries out assessment, evaluation and diagnosis at government schools and kindergartens then develops an appropriate treatment plan for the individual child in accordance with his/her needs with a view to returning the child to his/her natural environment at school or home as an independent individual, able to interact with others.

124. The Ministry of Education adopted the concept of inclusive education and began putting it into practice in public education schools at the beginning of school year 2015–2016. This serves students with disabilities by promoting implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[47]

125. In the field of employment and social welfare, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development launched the "Tawafuq" programme, designed to employ Saudis with disabilities; provide them with an appropriate work environment; encourage private sector enterprises to recruit and train persons with disabilities, with a view to increasing their level of performance; provide financial assistance for families looking after a person with disabilities; and create and subsidise organizations and centres that provide care and rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities.

(o) Disseminating and teaching the culture of human rights[48]

126. Advances in the dissemination and teaching of the culture of human rights include implementation of a number of educational and training programmes, workshops and lectures, as well as online and television campaigns covering various aspects of human rights. The involvement of influential figures in the community in programs relating to children, women, persons with disabilities and migrant workers, has been particularly rewarding. The educational authorities in the Kingdom are keen to disseminate the culture of human rights and their efforts were crowned with the issue of Supreme Order 13084 (18 January 2015), instructing the Human Rights Commission, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, to mainstream human rights in the higher education curriculum and take action to create a separate human rights major in the appropriate faculties.

127. Numerous training activities and programmes have been launched under the memorandum of understanding signed in 2012 between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Between 2014 and 2018, more than 36 activities and programmes for judges, members of the Public Prosecution Service, lawyers, health practitioners and law enforcement officers, were implemented to raise awareness of the human rights conventions to which the Kingdom has become a party and explore how best to implement their provisions.

128. On 14 December 2017, the Human Rights Commission signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Education, launching the human rights e-learning portal, under the slogan "My nation is the protector of my rights", designed to inform students of their rights and disseminate the culture of human rights.

129. As part of its communication strategy, the Ministry of Information established the Centre for Government Communication to promote integration and coordination between government agencies and the media, keep abreast of developments and keep pace with the Kingdom's comprehensive renaissance. One of the Centre's key tasks is to provide support for information departments in government agencies.

130. By posting statutory provisions relating to human rights and duties on their websites and social media accounts, government bodies — each in its own sphere of competence — help to disseminate the culture of rights among those who visit such sites. Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 713 (22 August 2017) concerns the posting of relevant bills, rules, regulations and decisions on the websites of government bodies to enable interested parties to comment and express their views thereon.

131. The King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue launched the "Salam" project for cultural communication, designed to highlight and convey a sense of the Kingdom's developments and achievements in a number of areas. Two offshoot initiatives have been launched: the Salam programme to qualify young leaders for global dialogue and the Salam short film competition. Both initiatives focus on supporting, qualifying and empowering young people to engage in dialogue and communication in international circles and furthering the role of the Kingdom in promoting coexistence and diversity and building global peace.

(p) Implementing human rights conventions and cooperating with regional and international mechanisms[49]

132. The Kingdom is a party to five major United Nations human rights conventions: the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is also a party to three optional protocols: the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

133. By virtue of the Kingdom's accession thereto, these conventions have become part of national law and the Kingdom's obligations thereunder have the same legal force as other statutory laws. The legal instrument of accession to these conventions (the royal decree) is the same as that under which the country's other laws are promulgated, in accordance with article 70 of the Basic Law of Governance, which stipulates: "Laws, international treaties and agreements, and concessions shall be issued and amended by royal decrees". Furthermore, article 11 (1) of the procedures for concluding international conventions, promulgated by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 287 (26 July 2010), states that, once a convention has come into force, the appropriate bodies are required to take the measures necessary for implementation to ensure that the Kingdom meets all its obligations arising from accession.

134. The Kingdom has sought to meet its obligations under these conventions and ensure that implementation is monitored by the relevant governmental and judicial bodies, principally the various branches of the judiciary. Its charter, issued pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 207 (12 September 2005), gives the Human Rights Commission a mandate to monitor government bodies to ensure application of the international human rights instruments to which the Kingdom has acceded and ensure that these bodies are taking proper measures for enforcement. These efforts were crowned by the formation, pursuant to Supreme Order no. 13084 (18 January 2015) of the standing committee responsible for preparing the Kingdom's reports on human rights conventions. One of the committee's tasks is to monitor recommendations emanating from treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review.

135. Regarding the procedural requirement to submit treaty reports, the Kingdom has submitted all its national reports on the human rights conventions[50] to which it is a party on time.

136. Working in collaboration with the Human Rights Council, the Kingdom actively participated in the first and second rounds of the Universal Periodic Review in 2009 and 2013, respectively, and has made considerable progress in implementing the recommendations received and endorsed during those rounds. Further to paragraph 4 (a) under "Methodology followed in preparing the report", the Human Rights Commission included the recommendations received and endorsed during the second round of the Universal Periodic Review in its annual report and conducted an assessment of implementation on the ground. Implementation of these recommendations is a qualitative indication of the progress achieved by the Kingdom in the protection and promotion of human rights.

137. The Kingdom cooperates with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, responding in a meaningful way to the questions and inquiries of the two special rapporteurs and working in accordance with the Council's complaints procedure. Issues are dealt with in an objective and wholly independent manner and investigated by a national body established pursuant to Supreme Order no. 2775 (13 March 2010). The Kingdom has extended invitations to a number of substantive mandate holders to visit the country, including the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, who visited in January 2017 and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, who visited from 30 April to 4 May 2017. The reports of the two special rapporteurs were studied to benefit from their remarks on the promotion and protection of human rights.

V. Compliance with the applicable rules of international humanitarian law

138. The Kingdom is keen to comply fully with the provisions and rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. As such, it affirms that all military operations by the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen are conducted in a manner fully consistent with those provisions and rules. Coalition forces are anxious not only to spare the civilian population, particularly women and children, and civilian objects from the effects of the armed conflict but have assumed responsibility for protecting them from the

gross abuses committed by Iranian-backed Houthi armed militias, including indiscriminate attacks, killing, torture, forced evacuation and disappearance, blockade and the use of child soldiers.

139. The Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen has put in place strict rules of engagement consistent with the provisions and rules of international humanitarian law, including a number of mechanisms and procedures to prevent targeting errors. The Coalition investigates all allegations of the targeting of civilians, civilian facilities and humanitarian organizations and announces the results of these investigations at press conferences.

140. The Coalition accords maximum importance to humanitarian relief in Yemen and coordinates activity with international organizations. The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre is working in partnership with a number of domestic and international organizations and institutions to implement a raft of projects and programmes, including a project to tackle the cholera epidemic caused by the damage done by Iranian-backed Houthi armed militias to the environmental and health facilities which would have helped prevent the spread of the disease. The Centre has also launched a number of programmes to rehabilitate chi!! soldiers conscripted by Iranian-backed Houthi armed militias, as well as support projects for Yemeni women and families. In addition, the Centre has launched nutrition, medical, health and environmental projects to address the impact of the shortage of food and medicines and raise the capacity of the health services to support the human right to food and medicine within a framework of standards free of any discrimination or prejudice.

141. Under the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen, announced by the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen, the Kingdom has contributed 465 million US dollars of financial aid through the United Nations to cover programmes implemented by various United Nations organizations. At the same time, it has contributed 35 million dollars to support infrastructure projects in Yemen.

VI. National priorities and initiative

142. The Kingdom affirms that it is committed to achieving the highest levels of human rights protection and promotion and accomplishing sustainable development goals on the basis of the principles of Islamic sharia, the statutory laws of the land and its obligations under regional and international human rights conventions, paying due attention to the observations and recommendations made by treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review and in the light of the plans and policies designed to achieve the country's goals, at the forefront of which is Saudi Vision 2030. To this end, the Kingdom shall strive to overcome the challenges standing in the way of protecting and promoting human rights by taking the necessary legislative and institutional measures, increasing the effectiveness of general implementation measures, raising rights awareness, boosting the involvement of civil society and promoting regional and international cooperation on human rights. Furthermore the Kingdom shall strive to develop enhanced qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure progress made in protecting and promoting human rights.

Conclusion

143. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms that this report represents a brief review of the most significant measures adopted to protect and promote human rights, in a manner consistent with the guidelines on report preparation. Despite all it has accomplished, the Kingdom still aspires to greater achievements in the field of human rights through its various agencies and under the active direction of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Notes

1 التوصية (222).
2 التوصيات (جزء من 32، 60، 63).
3 التوصيات (56، 70، 112، 134، 135، 143).
4 التوصية (187).
5 التوصيات (30، 31، 44، 74، 115، 135).
6 التوصيات (جزء من 46، جزء من 47، 48، 49، 51، جزء من 52، 53، جزء من 54، 172).
7 التوصيتان (216، 217).
8 التوصية (117).
9 التوصيات (جزء من 45، 155، 156).
10 التوصيات (56، 70، 74، 112، 134، 135، 136، 143، 157)
11 التوصيات (31، 57، 92، 93، 95، 96، 98، 100، 101، 102، 103، 105، 106، 107، 108، 112، 113، 114، 115، 162).
12 التوصيتان (141، 142).
13 التوصيات (102، 110، 111).
14 التوصيات (27، 28، جزء من 37، جزء من 39، جزء من 43، جزء من 45، 141، 142، 145، جزء من 148، 153).
15 التوصيات (64، 116، 182، 194، 197، 198، 199، 200، 201، 203، 207، 208، 209، 210، 211، 212، 213، 214).
16 التوصيات (1، 3، جزء من 7، جزء من 9، جزء من 10، 11، 12، 17، 18، جزء من 19، جزء من 20، جزء من 23).
17 التوصيات (64، 75، 80).
18 التوصيتان (30، 215).
19 التوصيات (69، 141، 142، 146).
20 التوصيتان (141، 142).
21 يستند مركز الملك سلمان للإغاثة والأعمال الإنسانية في عمله على عدد من المرتكزات، منها، مواصلة نهج المملكة في مد يد العون للمحتاجين على مستوى العالم، وتقديم المساعدات للفئات المتضررة بعيداً عن أي دوافع غير إنسانية، والتنسيق والتشاور مع المنظمات والهيئات العالمية، وتطبيق جميع المعايير المهنية المتبعة في البرامج الإغاثية، وتطوير الشراكات الفاعلة مع المنظمات والهيئات العالمية الرائدة في العمل الإنساني لضمان الاستجابة العاجلة للتعامل مع الأزمات الإنسانية، وضمان استدامة أثر المساعدات الإنسانية المقدمة عبر تحسين ومتابعة مخرجات البرامج الإغاثية.
22 التوصية (185).
23 التوصيات (30، 44، 57، 68، 74، 93، 98، 113، 114، 115، 177، 184، 185، 186، 191).
24 التوصيتان (134، 215).
25 التوصيات (جزء من 37، جزء من 39، جزء من 41، 141، 142، 146، 150).
26 التوصيات (جزء من 40، جزء من 41، جزء من 42، جزء من 43، جزء من 45، جزء من 124، جزء من 125، جزء من 126، جزء من 130، 139، جزء من 144، 145، 147، جزء من 148، 149، 151، 153، 155، 156).
27 التوصيات (217، 218، 220).
28 التوصيات (72، 159، 160).
29 التوصيات (44، 72، 116، 131، 132، 133، 213).
30 التوصيات (جزء من 46، جزء من 47، 48، 49، 51، جزء من 52، 53، جزء من 54، 59، 63، جزء من 137، جزء من 164، 170، 172، 173، جزء من 175).
31 التوصيات (49، جزء من 52، 53، 117، 154، 170).
32 التوصيتان (166، 167).
33 التوصيات (30، 64، 98، 184، 187، 189، 190، 191، 192، 215).
34 تضمنت المؤشرات التعليمية لعام (2017م) بقطاعيه العام والعالي ما يلي: معدل طالب/معلم: (11)، نسبة المباني المستأجرة: (24%)، مؤشر التكافؤ بين الجنسين في الالتحاق بالتعليم: (1.02)، نسبة مشاركة التعليم الأهلي (17.9%)، نسبة الطلبة الخريجين في مرحلة البكالوريوس: (91%)، نسبة المقبولين في الجامعات الحكومية من إجمالي خريجي الثانوية: (64%).
35 التوصيات (184، 187، 188).
36 التوصيات (73، 116، 158، 182، 194، جزء من 196، 197، 198، 199، 200، 201، 202، 203، 204، 205، 206، 207، 208، 209، 210، 211، 212، 213، 214).
37 تم اتخاذ العديد من التدابير الرامية إلى تعزيز حقوق العاملين في الخدمة المنزلية ومن أبرزها: تطوير آليات الاستقدام، وذلك بتأهيل مكاتب وشركات الاستقدام، من خلال التدريب على صور الاتجار بالأشخاص، والتعريف بالمعايير الخاصة بممارسة النشاط، والتأكد من استيفاء الشركات للمعايير المطلوبة للحصول على التراخيص، والتنسيق مع سفارات الدول التي تم إبرام اتفاقيات تعاون معها، وتطوير الرقابة والإشراف على الممارسين، حيث تم إطلاق برنامج (مساند) للعمالة المنزلية وهو نظام إلكتروني يربط إجراءات توظيف العامل في الخدمة المنزلية من بلده إلى أن يغادر المملكة بعد انتهاء العقد بشفافية ووضوح، وذلك بمشاركة الجهات المعنية داخل المملكة وخارجها، كما تم أتمتة الإجراءات الموثقة للعمالة المنزلية من بداية دخولها للمملكة حتى انتهاء العقد، وحفظ حقوقهم من خلال بطاقة الرواتب، وإلزام أصحاب العمل ببرنامج حماية الأجور، ومرافقة السداد، وتوثيق العقود والرواتب، وضمان الحقوق، وتقديم الدعم والحماية للعمالة المنزلية، وتطوير آليات الدعم والحماية، حيث تم إضافة إلى إطلاق الرقم الموحد لتقديم البلاغات، إصدار الكتيبات والمطويات التي تعرّف العامل في الخدمة المنزلية بإجراءات الانتصاف عند انتهاك أي من حقوقه بما في ذلك الآلية المختصة بتلقي البلاغات، وطرق الحصول على المساعدة القانونية والترجمة.

[38] التوصيات (29، 185، 186، 215، 221).

[39] صدر الأمر الملكي رقم (أ/86) وتاريخ 1439/4/18هـ الموافق (5 يناير 2018م) القاضي بصرف بدل غلاء معيشة شهري للمواطنين من الموظفين والموظفات المدنيين والعسكريين، وإضافة بدل غلاء معيشة للمعاش التقاعدي، وإضافة بدل غلاء معيشة للمخصص الشهري لمستفيدي الضمان الاجتماعي، وزيادة مكافأة الطلاب والطالبات من المواطنين بنسبة (10%)، وتحمل الدولة ضريبة القيمة المضافة عن المواطنين المستفيدين من الخدمات الصحية الخاصة، والتعليم الأهلي الخاص، وكذلك تحمل الدولة ضريبة القيمة المضافة عما لا يزيد عن مبلغ (850.000 ريال) من سعر شراء المسكن الأول للمواطن.

[40] التوصيات (31، جزء من 32، 33، جزء من 34، جزء من 35، 55، 56، 57، 58، 64، 68، 70، 71، 74، 75، 92، 93، 94، 95، 96، 97، 98، 99، 100، 101، 102، 103، 105، 106، 107، 108، جزء من 109، 110، 111، 112، 113، 114، 115، 134، 135، 136، 138، 143، 152، 157، 162، 163، 176، 177، 178، 179، 180، 181، 183، 184، 187، 189، 190، 191، 192، 215).

[41] من القرارات التي اتخذت لتعزيز حقوق المرأة المتصلة بالقضاء: زيادة نسبة المحاميات بنسبة ١٢٠٪ حيث ارتفع عددهن إلى 304 محاميات، وإطلاق دبلوم المحاماة لتقديم التأهيل المنتهي بمنح رخصة مزاولة المهنة، وإنشاء مراكز خاصة لتنفيذ أحكام الحضانة من أجل توفير بيئة نموذجية بمودها الجو الأسري والأمني والصحي والترفيهي، بمشاركة إحدى مؤسسات المجتمع المدني في المملكة، ومنح المرأة حق الولاية على المحضون مما يسهل عليها الحصول على الخدمات من الجهات المختلفة، واستحقاق أسرة المتغيب أو المفقود والأسرة المهجورة أو المعلقة لمعاش الضمان الاجتماعي، وتعديل لائحة نظام التنفيذ التي نصت على حق الحضانة للأم خلال فترة التقاضي وأن يكون تنفيذ قضايا الحضانة أو الزيارة في بلد الحضانة أو الزيارة المنصوص عليه في السند التنفيذي، والتنفيذ الفوري لأحكام النفقة أو رؤية الطفل المحضون أو تسليمه لحاضنته، وإنشاء مكاتب نسوية في محاكم الأحوال الشخصية لخدمة المرأة مجاناً، بالمشاركة مع إحدى مؤسسات المجتمع المدني، وصدور تعميم رئيس المجلس الأعلى للقضاء رقم ت/١٠٤٩ وتاريخ ١٤٣٩/٦/٢٠ هـ الموافق (٨ مارس ٢٠١٧) المتضمن أحقية الأم بإثبات حضانة أبنائها دون حاجتها إلى رفع دعوى قضائية في محاكم الأحوال الشخصية بذلك في الحالات التي يثبت عدم وجود خصومة أو نزاع بينها وبين والد المحضونين.

[42] صدرت اللائحة التنفيذية لنظام الحماية من الإيذاء متضمنةً عدداً من الآليات التنفيذية للأحكام الواردة في النظام، ومن أبرزها: التزام كل جهة عامة أو خاصة بإبلاغ وزارة العمل والتنمية الاجتماعية أو الشرطة عن حالات الإيذاء التي تطلع فيها فور العلم بها، وإنشاء مركز لتلقي البلاغات يقوم باستقبال البلاغات عن حالات الإيذاء، والتعامل الفوري مع البلاغات من خلال التواصل مع الحالة وتقييم وضع الحالة من حيث الخطورة، وإجراء التقييم الطبي لها إذا لزم الأمر واتخاذ جميع الإجراءات اللازمة والمناسبة للتعامل مع الحالة، والتأكيد على أقسام الشرطة وغيرها من الجهات الأمنية المختصة الاستجابة الفورية لطلب وحدة الحماية الاجتماعية بدخول أي موقع، وتوفير الحماية الكاملة للمختصين من وحدة الحماية وللحالة.

[43] التوصيات (30، 31، 44، 74، 115، 135، 187، 215).

[44] تشير الإحصاءات لعام 2017م إلى أن عدد مدارس رياض الأطفال قد بلغ (3272) مدرسة، وبلغ عدد الطلاب والطالبات في مرحلة رياض الأطفال (267270) طالباً وطالبة، وبلغ عدد الأطفال (14971) طفلاً في (1518) حضانة. كما تم إطلاق برنامج تثقيف الأم والطفل، لدعم الأم في رعاية وتربية أطفالها ومساعدتها على إكسابهم المهارات الأساسية (العقلية، والبدنية، والعاطفية، والاجتماعية) بما يتوافق مع خصائصهم بعمر الخمس سنوات، ، حيث تم تحقيق 95% من المؤشر ECERSبالإضافة إلى برنامج تجويد البيئات في رياض الأطفال باستخدام مقياس المطلوب.

[45] التوصيتان (134، 215).

[46] صدر قرار مجلس الوزراء رقم (534) وتاريخ 1436/12/29هـ الموافق (12 أكتوبر 2015م) بشمول الطلاب من ذوي الإعاقات الجسمية والصحية بالمكافآت المقررة لطلاب التعليم الخاص، ومضاعفة مكافأة التربية الخاصة لتشمل (14) حالة من الإعاقات الجسمية والصحية.

[47] تم إطلاق برنامج "ميسر" وهو برنامج تعليمي لذوي الذكاء الحدي بدأ العمل به مع بداية العام الدراسي 1437هـ/1438هـ الموافق (2017م/2018م). كما قامت وزارة التعليم بطرح مبادرة تعنى بتقديم الخدمات التعليمية للطلاب المقيمين في مراكز الأورام والمستشفيات، وذلك بافتتاح (5) فصول دراسية وبرنامج التدخل المبكر (20) روضة من رياض الأطفال الحكومية في (5) إدارات تعليمية.

[48] التوصيات (61، 62، 65، 66، 67، 78، 79، 90).

[49] التوصيات (76، 81، 82، 83، جزء من 84، جزء من 85، 87، جزء من 88، جزء من 223، 224).

[50] التقارير التي حل موعد تقديمها وقدمتها المملكة إلى هيئات المعاهدات: تقرير المملكة الجامع لتقاريرها من (الرابع وحتى التاسع) المقدم وفقاً للمادة (9) من الاتفاقية الدولية للقضاء على جميع أشكال التمييز العنصري، وقد تمت مناقشته في الدورة (95) للجنة القضاء على التمييز العنصري التي عقدت خلال المدة من 23 أبريل إلى 11 مايو 2018م، وتقرير المملكة الأول المقدم وفقاً للمادة (8) من البروتوكول الاختياري لاتفاقية حقوق الطفل المتعلق باشتراك الأطفال في النزاعات المسلحة، وتقرير المملكة الأول المقدم وفقاً للمادة (12) من البروتوكول الاختياري لاتفاقية حقوق الطفل المتعلق ببيع الأطفال وبغاء الأطفال واستغلال الأطفال في المواد الإباحية، وتقرير المملكة الجامع للتقريرين (الثالث والرابع) المقدم وفقاً للمادة (18) من اتفاقية القضاء على جميع أشكال التمييز ضد المرأة، وقد تمت مناقشته في الدورة (69) التي عقدت خلال المدة من 12 فبراير إلى 3 مارس 2018م، وتقرير المملكة الثاني المقدم وفقاً للمادة (19) من اتفاقية مناهضة التعذيب وغيره من ضروب المعاملة أو العقوبة القاسية أو اللاإنسانية أو المهينة، وقد تمت مناقشته في الدورة (57) للجنة مناهضة التعذيب التي عقدت خلال المدة من 18 أبريل إلى 31 مايو 2016م، وتقرير المملكة الأول المقدم وفقاً للمادة (35) من اتفاقية حقوق الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة، وتقرير المملكة الجامع لتقريريها (الثالث والرابع) المقدم وفقاً للمادة (44) من اتفاقية حقوق الطفل، وقد تمت مناقشته في الدورة (73) للجنة حقوق الطفل التي عقدت خلال المدة من 13 إلى 30 سبتمبر 2016م.